



Student Argonaut Application

JASON Expedition: Mysteries of Earth and Mars

I. Timeline

March 15, 2005

All applicants must fax a completed application to: 866-785-4363

March 15th, 2005 is the date by which the application must be received. Do not fax pages 1 through 6 of the application packet. Any applications arriving after this date (in your time zone) will not be considered in the application process. When you send your application please set your fax machine preferences to indicate to you whether or not the application was received by us. We will not be confirming whether or not the application or parts of the application were received on our end. Your fax confirmation will be your only method of confirmation. All the separate sections of your application will be combined into one packet.

March 22nd, 2005

Application packets will be emailed to the sponsoring PIN (Primary Interactive Network Site) sites for those students applying from a PIN. The PIN sites will determine their top three finalists and inform JFE by email. Those applicants that are not from a PIN will be informed by email at a later date (approx. late April) if they will continue forward through the rest of the application process. PIN sites are responsible for informing any students not in the group of finalists from their site that they are no longer in consideration to be Argonauts.

April 15th, 2005

Each PIN must submit a student interview video to complete the applications of the final three candidates. Non-pin applicant sponsor teachers who have been informed that they have a student that is part of the final selection round must also complete a video and ship it to: UWM JASON Expeditions 161 West Wisconsin Ave., Suite 6000, 53202 Milwaukee, WI

July/August 2005

Student Argonauts are Selected. Each applicant that is part of the final selection process will receive a letter stating whether they have been selected or not selected to participate in the Mysteries of Earth and Mars by the end of August 2005. If a student is selected as an Argonaut they will receive information about their role in the Mysteries of Earth and Mars or other expedition at that time.

August 2004- August 2005

JASON Expedition teams will conduct research at the Mysteries of Earth and Mars expedition sites. Student and Teacher Argonauts will travel to JASON Expeditions research sites to work with their research teams.

PLEASE NOTE: It may occur that some students selected as student Argonauts will be asked to participate in the early stages of the next expedition, or a smaller expedition experience that will not involve live broadcasts. This has been outlined in the application.



II. *Mysteries of Earth and Mars* Expedition Program Description

More information will be available online at www.jason.org.

Join the JASON Expedition: *Mysteries of Earth and Mars* as we explore the similarities and differences between Earth and Mars through our multimedia curriculum. We will look at Mars analogs, or locations on Earth where environmental conditions, geologic features, or biologic attributes resemble in some way those thought to exist on Mars, now or at some point in its past. Studying sites such as these provides new insights into the nature and history of Mars, Earth and life itself. Deserts on Earth provide a particularly good point of comparison for scientists trying to learn more about the Martian landscape.

Like Earth, Mars has seasons, weather, floodplains, polar ice caps, volcanoes, canyons, craters, and an atmosphere. Exciting recent findings hint at the presence of liquid water, either in Mars' ancient past or preserved in the subsurface today. Water is one of the key ingredients for life; we will examine the role that water plays in shaping life here on Earth and apply that knowledge to the search for life elsewhere in the solar system. We will also explore the cutting edge research and technology that goes into a robotic mission to Mars; the efforts to one day send humans to Mars, and the people who are helping to make these dreams a reality.

Working with renowned partner organizations and research and academic institutions around the world, students will conduct investigations and make discoveries about Mars and their own planet by drawing comparisons in the Earth, Life and Physical Sciences.

III. Special skill sets

Participants will require good endurance and should be in excellent health. The proper individuals will assess these skills before selected argonauts will participate in any activities. Please read the application carefully and thoroughly.

BIRTHDATES: Students must be 14 or 15 at the time of the main expedition which is last week of January 2006.

IV. Special Note

In recent year's JASON Expeditions has grown in scope and continues to grow in ways yet to be determined. To meet the demands of that growth we are considering extending the Argonaut program in various ways. One possible method of extending argonaut participation would be to select additional students and teachers who would be invited to participate in the preparation stages for *Mysteries of Earth and Mars*.

One example of what that might mean would be a Mini-expedition or an Online expedition for *Mysteries of Earth and Mars*.

This would mean that some students or teachers selected during the *Mysteries of Earth and Mars* selection process would participate online and in various other activities during *Mysteries of Earth and Mars*, but would work with scientists outside of the main expedition. At this point we do not know what these expeditions might study, or where the expedition sites would be located. It will be important that students applying for possible selection as student argonauts are prepared to participate in whatever capacity JASON would determine appropriate.

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JASON EXPEDITIONS STUDENT ARGONAUT PROGRAM GUIDELINES & APPLICATION MATERIALS

I. INTRODUCTION

The Student and Teacher Argonaut Programs are key educational components of JASON Expeditions, administered by the JASON Foundation for Education (JFE). Each year, a small group of Student and Teacher Argonauts get the opportunity to work with research scientists. The purpose of their participation is to be “ambassadors” for JASON Expeditions and role models for the students and teachers who participate in JASON from their classrooms and local Primary Interactive Network Sites (PINS). Before and after a JASON experience, Student and Teacher Argonauts work with their PINS and their schools to enhance the JASON experience in their communities and to share their experiences and enthusiasm with hundreds of students.

Every year, the Student Argonaut experience is unique, depending on the location of JASON Expeditions and the nature of the scientific research. The following are the major components of the Argonaut Program:

- Students and Teachers selected for the Argonaut Program will be assigned to one of several teams that are participating in JASON activities. Each team will have the opportunity to work with a JASON Expeditions host researcher or other researcher who is studying a particular topic.
- To prepare for their roles as team members, Student Argonauts will be expected to become familiar with the topics being studied, conduct experiments, and read materials appropriate to the expedition. Student Argonauts will be responsible for interacting on a regular basis with their assigned Teacher Argonaut(s) and the JASON Foundation Argonaut Coordinator.
- Student and Teacher Argonauts will travel to the JASON Expeditions or other designated research sites to work with their research teams. The exact dates have not been determined, but will be determined by the nature of the scientific work being done. Travel and living expenses during this expedition will be paid by the JFE.
- As role models for the students who take part in JASON Expeditions, Student Argonauts will take part in various forms of JASON educational programming. While working in research teams, Argonauts may appear in educational broadcasts that may be seen live, via telepresence or as pre-produced television segments, depending on the time of year and the research being done. In addition, Argonauts will share their experiences using JASON Expeditions Online Systems on the Internet.

II. APPLICANTS

A committed JASON Expeditions participating school or district must sponsor candidates for the Student Argonaut Program. JFE is looking for Student Argonaut candidates from diverse backgrounds that:

1. Will be 14 or 15 years old at the time of the expedition, which is scheduled for the last week of January 2006 (*Sorry, no exceptions.*)
2. Have demonstrated interest and ability in science and technology.
3. Have demonstrated team work and leadership skills.
4. Are in good health and physically fit.



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5. Have participated in one or more recent JASON Expeditions with their school or other groups. By participation we mean that an ideal candidate student has done some activities from the print curriculum, seen broadcasts/video, and perhaps has contributed to Team JASON Online.
6. Is comfortable working with others, has been away from home and family before, and is interested in science and technology.
7. A student may not apply to be an argonaut to more than one institution. For example, if there is a PIN and a corporate Sponsor the application may only list one of those institutions. If a student is not selected via the institution stated in the application they may not reapply through the other institution.

PLEASE NOTE: It may occur that some students selected as student argonauts will be asked to participate in the early stages of the next expedition rather than the current year expedition or a smaller Online Expedition, which could occur at any time of year. These other expeditions most likely will include travel, and working with researchers, but might not include a live on camera role. At this time we do not know what the topics or locations will be, but applicants should understand that they could be selected to participate in an expedition of this nature as part of this application process.

The JASON Foundation for Education reserves the right to change the scope of the Student Argonaut Program, including but not limited to, the expedition site(s), the number of participating students, and the program's timeline.

III. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

All applicants must complete the application packet described below and submit a completed application package by the deadline established (see timeline).

Applications must be complete, or they will not be considered. Applications that are not complete will not be included in the selection process. We are sorry, but we do not have time or resources to give feedback to anyone about their application should the application be incomplete or one of those not selected for participation.

This application is in PDF format with forms. This means that you need to fill out the application on a computer that has Acrobat Readers, which can be downloaded for free from Acrobat.com. When you scroll over a text field you will be able to type into the field. Please do not use any font smaller than 12 point.

A JFE Student Argonaut Selection Committee will review applications. Some candidates may be contacted for telephone interviews with members of the Selection Committee.

IV. APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Your completed application parts must be returned to the fax number 866-785-4363 by the deadline established. JASON Foundation for Education will only accept faxed or emailed copies of the application packet; we will only accept faxed letters of support or other documents required of anyone other than the applicant. We are not responsible for delays in emailing, faxing or other unforeseen server or email delay issues. The deadline date is the date the application must arrive by fax.

- **Student Information Form.**
- **Three** 300 to 350 word **short essays** on the following topics:
 - Describe a topic in the area of science or technology that you find exciting. How did you first learn about this topic, and what makes it interesting?
 - If you are invited to participate as a team member in JASON Expeditions, what will you contribute to the team and why?

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- What has been your favorite JASON investigation from your JASON studies?
- **List of Extracurricular Activities** Please submit a list of all-current extracurricular activities and leadership positions. When you identify your extracurricular activities, please indicate if you were elected, appointed, or volunteered, and which activities you enjoy the most.
- **Two teacher recommendations** (see separate PDF named teacherrecommendation.pdf). Students should download and email these forms to two recommending teachers. Teachers will complete the form and fax it directly to JFE at 866-785-4363. It is the applicant's responsibility to check with the teacher to make sure the letter of recommendation is submitted on time. If the student has more than two teachers write recommendations and more than two recommendations are sent into JFE we will only use the first two letters of recommendation that arrive. If the student is Homeschooling the letters should come from people other than the parents. Examples of people to write these letters would be a Scout master, Church Youth group leader and etc.
- **Copy of school transcripts** (see separate PDF named transcripts.pdf). Students should download and email the form to the school official responsible for academic transcripts (usually the guidance counselor or other administrator). The school official(s) will complete the form and fax copies of the student's school transcripts to 866-785-4363. **Please make sure attendance information for the two most recent school years are included.** If the student applying is Homeschooling please provide the following in lieu of a transcript. A copy of recent standardized testing scores (this might have to be faxed if it is not available in electronic form). If there has been no recent standardized testing then there should be a letter stating how the state where the student resides or school district verifies student achievement and skill levels and how this homeschool complies with state or district achievement verification.
- **Letter from Parent or Guardian.** Parents should sign the letter based indicating their willingness to sign the appropriate liability and publicity releases as a condition to the student's participation.
- **Application Statement of Understanding.** Please read each item, checking off each item in the check box and sign this form.
- **Statement of Participation** (see separate PDF named participation.pdf) This form is to be emailed to the teacher, scoutmaster or other adult that worked with the student on a previous JASON Expeditions. The teacher or other adult should fill this out, and fax it to 866-785-4363.
- **Statement from supporting teacher.** (see separate PDF named supportteacher.pdf) This form is to be emailed to the teacher, scoutmaster or other adult that worked with the student on a previous JASON Expeditions. The teacher or other adult should fill this out, and fax it to 866-785-4363.
- **Digital color photo of applicant** (This photo will not be used in the selection process. It will be used to accelerate the release of information to the press once the selection process is completed.) There will This digital photo must be emailed to jude@jason.org. The email should have the name of the applicant, the name of the PIN/Sponsor in the subject line. There should be no other information included in the email.



Students with special needs.

If you have or are a student with a special need you may make modifications to the video and application process. You are allowed to make any changes that are normally made for the student in school according to their IEP. For example, if a student is vision impaired, then the script might need to be in very large bold print, or in contrasting colors. If the student can't read, and usually has the assistance of a reader at school, then the same should be allowed for the video taping. Please note the changes made and send that information along with the videotape so that we know what accommodations were made.

Privacy

The JASON Foundation for Education recognizes the importance of maintaining the privacy of users. We have created this privacy statement in order to demonstrate our commitment to privacy by disclosing the privacy practices of JASON Expeditions. By filling out and sending in this application, you consent and agree to the terms of this Privacy Policy.

We gather personal information to allow us to process your application, to provide information about our other educational offerings and to inform you of future programs that might be of interest to you.

From time to time, you may receive e-mail and other mailings from the JASON Foundation for Education.

We will not sell or distribute your personal information to other organizations for any purpose that is not related to JASON Expeditions. Your personal information, such as your school address and personal e-mail address, is not available to anyone but JASON Foundation.

If you prefer not to receive e-mails regarding special promotions or offers from us, please let us know by either:

1. Phoning our Technical Support Help Desk staff at 1-800-608-9578 x 333 (Monday-Friday, 9:00 am to 5:30 pm US Eastern Time)
2. E-mailing us at remove-list@jason.org.

Your instructions to limit the use of your information will be processed as soon as reasonably practicable.

JASON Expeditions Student Argonaut Program

STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

Personal Data

JASON Sponsoring Site: _____

Contacting You

Internet home page address (if applicable): _____

Parent or Guardian Information

We ask that both student and parent indicate separate email addresses if they each have their own.



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Present School Information

School Name: _____

Principal's Name: _____

School Address: _____
Street

City State/Province Zip Country

School Phone: (____) _____ School Fax: (____) _____

School's Internet home page address: _____

What type of school do you attend? Circle One

Public

Home School

Private

Cyber School

Parochial

Other, please describe: _____

Do you currently have computer at home that can connect to the Internet? Yes No

Do you know how to access PDF documents via Acrobat Reader? Yes No

If you do not have a computer at home do you have regular access to one at school? Yes
No

Fall School Information (if moving to high school)

This must be filled in completely. Please contact the school to get current information.

School Name: _____

Principal's Name: _____

School Address: _____
Street

City State/Province Zip Country

School Phone: _____ School Fax: _____

School's Internet home page address: _____

Optional: What type of school will you attend?

Public

Home School

Private

Cyber School

Parochial

Other, please describe: _____



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Interests Questionnaire

Have you studied JASON Expeditions at your school or participated in local JASON Expeditions activities? If so please list the expeditions and the name of the teacher:
(Example, JASON XIV Shore to Sea, and JASON XV Rainforest at the Crossroads etc.)

JASON Expeditions is an interdisciplinary program that includes many subject areas. Please indicate your areas of interest by marking the list below with the numbers 1, 2, & 3. Mark a 1 by the topic that interests you the most; 2 and 3 for the areas that interest you less, but which you still enjoy. You may only select three items.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| _____ Biology | _____ Fine Arts |
| _____ Chemistry | _____ Geology |
| _____ Computer Science | _____ Mathematics |
| _____ Engineering | _____ Medicine |
| _____ English/Languages | _____ Social Sciences |
| _____ Geography | _____ Television Production |
| | _____ Journalism |

Other:

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JASON Expeditions Student Argonaut Program LIST OF EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Activity or Leadership Position & Description	
Volunteer Appointed Elected	1.
Volunteer Appointed Elected	2.
Volunteer Appointed Elected	3.
Volunteer Appointed Elected	4.
Volunteer Appointed Elected	5.
Volunteer Appointed Elected	6.
Volunteer Appointed Elected	7.
Volunteer Appointed Elected	8.
Volunteer Appointed Elected	9.
Volunteer Appointed Elected	10.

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ESSAY ONE

Describe a topic in the area of science or technology that you find exciting. How did you first learn about this topic, and what makes it interesting? You are limited to 300 to 350 words.

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ESSAY TWO

If you are invited to participate as a team member in JASON Expeditions, what will you contribute to the team and why? You are limited to 300 to 350 words.

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ESSAY THREE

What has been your favorite JASON investigation from your JASON studies? You are limited to 300 to 350 words.

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JASON Expeditions Student Argonaut Program Parent Letter

To whom it may concern,

If my *son/daughter*, _____, is chosen to be a JASON Expeditions Student Argonaut, I am willing to sign the appropriate medical, liability, and publicity releases.

We/I understand that applying for JASON Expeditions is a serious commitment. If the student is selected, we will not schedule any family or school trips that might interfere with the student's participation in JASON Expeditions.

We/I understand that the student will have preparation activities assigned to him/her. These activities will be in addition to regular schoolwork, but must be given high priority. It is important that your son/daughter be responsible and diligent in meeting any timelines requested by the Foundation staff for returning materials or other forms.

We understand that family members will not be traveling with the student to the expedition.

We/I understand that a student selected may be invited to participate in a subsequent JASON expedition rather than the anticipated current expedition.

Parents, please sign in black ink after you print a copy, and before faxing the document.
Sincerely,



APPLICATION STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

Please read this section carefully, place a check mark in each box and sign in the space provided below.

Based upon the final determination of the JASON expedition science plan and expedition logistics, the JASON Expeditions Student Argonaut Program format could change at the discretion of the JASON Foundation for Education. What follows is a general description of our current expectations for JASON Expeditions Student Argonauts:

- Students selected for the Argonaut Program will be assigned to one of several teams that are participating in JASON activities. Each team will have the opportunity to work with a JASON Expeditions researcher or other researcher who is studying a particular topic.
- To prepare for their roles as team members, Student Argonauts will be expected to read books, conduct experiments and complete various other “assignments” to become familiar with the topics being studied in this year’s JASON Expeditions. Student Argonauts will be responsible for interacting on a regular basis with their assigned Teacher Argonaut(s) and their JASON Foundation Argonaut Coordinator. In addition, Student Argonauts will choose a teacher in their local area to assist them with preparation exercises designed by Teacher Argonauts and expedition researchers.
- As role models for the students who take part in JASON Expeditions, Student Argonauts may take part in various forms of JASON educational programming. While working with other team members, Argonauts may appear in educational broadcasts, which may be seen live, via telepresence or as pre-produced television segments, depending on the time of year of the research being done. In addition, Argonauts will share their experiences using JASON Expeditions Online Systems on the Internet. Students are highly encouraged to obtain access to e-mail, and a computer with CD and Internet abilities. (The latter is not a strict requirement for participation.)
- The Student Argonaut may be invited to participate in JASON related activities at their sponsoring PINS (e.g. attending fundraising events, attending local press conferences, assisting with the teacher training sessions, participating in the broadcasts after their return from the expedition, etc.) This participation is at the discretion of the local PIN Site.
- Student Argonauts will be expected to act as JASON Expeditions “Ambassadors,” disseminating their JASON experiences to as many audiences as possible.
- It is the policy of the JASON Foundation for Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, sexual preference, political affiliation, religion, marital status, national origin, handicap or disability in its programs and activities. No person shall be denied consideration solely because of any impairment that is unrelated to the ability to engage in activities, with or without reasonable accommodation, involved in the program for which application has been made.

It is the policy of the JASON Foundation for Education to maintain a drug-free environment. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession,



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regarding drug abuse shall be held accountable for their actions and either sent home at their own expense or, if this occurs before the expedition, denied participation in the program.

- If for any reason the sponsoring PIN Site, National Sponsor or school of attendance should decide that the student should not participate in JASON Expeditions due to suspension, expulsion, or other serious incident, the JASON Foundation will support that decision by dismissing the student from the JASON Argonaut Program. Dismissal also shall be enforced for any other violation of US Federal or State laws.
- Student Argonauts will be in good health and physically fit (must be accomplished swimmers, able to endure heat or cold, capable of climbing up and down rope ladders, steep steps, and not afraid of heights if required by the location of the expedition.).
- I understand that the JASON Foundation for Education reserves the right to change the scope of the Student Argonaut Program, including but not limited to, the expedition site(s), the number of participating students, and the program's timeline.
- I understand that Student Argonauts may be required to take a physical or receive other medical attention.
- It may occur that some students selected as Student Argonauts will be asked to participate in the early stages of a subsequent JASON expedition or an Online Expedition rather than the currently anticipated JASON expedition. At this time we do not know what the topic or location of that expedition will be, but applicants should understand that this is a possibility.

I _____ have read the above and understand my responsibilities if selected as a JASON Expeditions Student Argonaut. I agree to work with my assigned Teacher Argonaut(s), expedition scientists, fellow Student Argonauts, and representatives of JASON Expeditions.

Student's Signature

Date

Parents/Guardian Signature

Date

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